IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for treating an immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis in a mammal in need thereof expressing a FcγRIIB receptor, by means of an *in vivo* antibody-antigen interaction, ~~without compromising the function of the antigen,~~ which method comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof, wherein said administration results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen *in vivo* in said mammal so as to form an antibody-antigen conjugate, wherein said antigen is a foreign protein substantially soluble *in vivo*, and wherein said antibody-antigen conjugate treats immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis of the mammal expressing the FcγRIIB receptor.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Withdrawn) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said ~~soluble foreign~~ antigen is administered to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.

4.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said ~~soluble foreign~~ antigen and said antibody are incubated together to form the antibody-antigen conjugate prior to administering said conjugate to said mammal.

5.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said ~~foreign~~ antigen is ovalbumin.

6.   (Withdrawn) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and an effective amount of said antigen is administered.

7-15. (Cancelled)

16.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 for treating an immune thrombocytopenia.

17.   (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 for treating inflammatory arthritis.

18.   (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting platelet clearance in a mammal in need thereof, wherein said mammal expresses a FcγRIIB receptor, by means of an *in vivo* antibody-antigen interaction, ~~without compromising the function of the antigen,~~ which method comprises administering to the mammal a composition comprising a therapeutic amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said administration results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen so as to form an antibody-antigen conjugate in said mammal, wherein said antigen is a <u>foreign</u> protein substantially soluble *in vivo* and wherein said antibody-antigen conjugate inhibits platelet clearance in the mammal expressing the FcγRIIB receptor.

19.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the therapeutic amount of the at least one antibody ranges from about 0.1μg to about 1g per kg of body weight per day.

20.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the at least one antibody and/or ~~soluble~~ antigen is administered for a time sufficient to therapeutically increase and maintain platelet cell counts.

21.   (Cancelled)

22.   (Withdrawn) The method according to claim [[21]] <u>18,</u> wherein said ~~soluble~~ antigen is administered to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.

23.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[21]] 18, wherein said soluble antigen and said antibody are incubated together to form the antibody-antigen conjugate prior to administering said conjugate to said mammal.

24.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[21]] 18, wherein said soluble antigen is ovalbumin.

25.   (Withdrawn) The method according to claim [[21]] 18, wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and an effective amount of said soluble antigen is administered.

26- 32. (Cancelled)

33.   (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for treating an immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis by means of an *in vivo* antibody-antigen interaction, without invoking the biological function of the antigen, said composition comprising an effective amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein administration of said composition results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen *in vivo* in said mammal, and wherein said antigen is substantially soluble *in vivo*.

34.   (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 33, wherein said antibody and/or soluble antigen is capable of inhibiting platelet clearance.

35.   (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 33 wherein said soluble antigen is foreign antigen.

36.   (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 35 wherein said composition comprises said soluble antigen for administration to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.

37. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 35 wherein said composition comprises said soluble foreign antigen and said antibody as antibody-antigen or antibody-antigen-blood cell conjugates for administering said conjugates to said mammal.

38. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 35 wherein said foreign antigen is ovalbumin.

39. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 35 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and said composition comprises an effective amount of said soluble antigen.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 33 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.

42. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 41 wherein said composition comprises an effective amount of said antibody.

43. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 41 wherein said soluble endogenous antigen is selected from albumin, transferrin and combinations thereof.

44. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 41 wherein said composition comprises said endogenous soluble antigen obtained from said mammal and said antibody as antibody-antigen conjugates for administering said conjugates to said mammal.

45-62. (Cancelled)